

His Majesty's Speech on the Opening of Parliament a Bad Piece of Composition --- The Latest Sight of it in the Eyes of Critical Parliamentarians.

In the respectable days of Queen Victoria, it was a common reproach among cultivated circles to say that a person could not speak "Queen's English." The reproach sometimes fell on a man who, by his industry and wit, had risen from the position of workman to be a member of the factory or other "concern," and was devoting the energies of his old age to enjoying the pleasures of happiness that money can buy. But more often it fell upon the woman who had risen at his side, and now either disregarded her aspirations altogether or rose at them painfully, as a bad hunter rises at a fence and scrapes the top bar. The reproach implied that the person had not mixed with elegant society, and was content even at one time poor, and was indifferently brought up among people

To Avoid Disputes.

This kind of language was, perhaps originally adopted to avoid legal disputes arising from the various expropriation, service, annuities, fee-farm, knights' fee, view of frankpledge, escheat, relief, mine, quarries, goods and chattels of felons and thieves, and the like, but it has become so exigent, deadend, frozen, or, as it were, of other royalty and seigniorial, right of Jurisdiction, privilege and hereditary, almost whatsoever. And the lawyers feel they have something to show for their money, and that lawyers, like the Egyptian priests when they made their money, have no other business but money to show for something. Politely, also, it is maintained, in the hope of impressing the illiterate with the majesty of the law, that the language is of enormous significance, and thus space to express itself adequately, and thus it fulfills the same function as the Judge's black cap, or the Oath of Allegiance, or the King's robes, or the King's bell and shouts, "O ye Kings! O ye Kings!"

Sometimes it may happen that a statesman deliberately chooses this quality of language, for the chance that its obscurity may in the future favor his escape from the apparent predicament, for under the st

"Soon we'll be in London Town
See the king in his golden crown;
Sing, my lads, ye ho!"

No Cabin Boy.

But if that little cabin-boy had been to Parliament and heard a king's speech, with such a knock on the head, he might say: Better for him to die prattling his ditty, with his sweet blue eyes turned up to the cockle roof, as was described in a modern novel, than to have the song held the fashion. Mr. Balfour is no blue-eyed cabin-boy; he has frequently seen the king in his golden crown; he has hardened to the sight of a monarch as a servant is to her lover's Cockney. Yet a king's speech is almost too much for him. Last Monday he complained bitterly of the "ambiguities" of the English. He spoke of the "ambiguities lurking in that remarkable specimen of our mother tongue," he doubted if the passage had been "so much as to embody two quite different policies which had no connection whatever, except that it had been found possible to force them into the framework of a grammatical sentence." He even quoted "some

convenient than to slip away from more obvious meaning into the refuge afforded by an alternative interpretation? But as to the king's speech, particularly, what was the meaning of the riddle to be due to understand that when the various opinions of the cabinet have at last been knocked into some shape, the cabinet members are entrusted with the Downing street butler to pull together, in accordance with the established precedent that has been considered, the proper mode of presentation. There is a uniformity in the style that points to a hereditary tradition, if not to a single hand, and that same "Cabinet of the English" referred, William Cobbett named the king's speech of 1814, and he detects in it exactly the same error grammatically existing in the king's speech referred in subsequent speeches up to what Mr. Balfour described as that "amazing piece of rubbish" last Monday. There is a sentence in which what was said in one sentence that is free error." Yet he believed that the ministers had a copy of the speech read, to examine, and to

unkind person who said the king's speech is always more stupid than the most stupid in the cabinet ministry; it is sometimes worse than that of the most illiterate man in the cabinet. But in the end, being hardened by "King English," he said we put it to rest as a thing of small importances. "I do not think it such matters," he admitted, "whether the Government have put good or bad words in its mouth, because ministers, and not his majesty, are responsible."

Will the leader of his majesty's Opposition allow the prerogatives of the House to be curtailed? Is bad grammar to be put into the king's mouth whether he likes it or not?

Commanding the army and navy, having the power of life and death, it is not to the measure of the most illiterate man in the cabinet that the ideal of "King's English" shall be applied.

"It is a matter of a mere trifling small importance whether the popular ideal of correct language shall be maintained," he who writes under the name of "The Editor" has once written badly.

The members intended to present statestemen from using false grammar, and from writing in an awkward

Great knowledge.

"Though a man," he continues, "may possess great knowledge, as a statesman and as a legislator, will be able to perform what would call to writing well; yet, as we have a right to demand that the quality of being able to write grammatically; the capacity of expressing his own meaning clearly upon paper, but his mind is not one of nine men, whose judgment and practical talent are employed."

Then, taking the speech I have quoted, and putting it all together, and despatched to the Parliament, under the king's speeches." Similarly, you may imagine him taking even our own speeches, and putting them into such little errors as would establish the Union of Africa has been fixed at the May 10th, 1897.

Should be dead. Or, again, fourth paragraph, the words, template this visit, when my shadow have preface, and so forth, beginning with my son, and same paragraph, the words, "(It will convey to South Africa,

ward manner."

Proof of Deficiency.—To look at the writing, on which I am about to remark, I do not pretend to "look on as the cause of the present public calamities, or any particular one" (he was writing in 1822); but he has a proof of a deficiency in that sort of talent which appears to me necessary in men entrusted with great affairs. Confusedness in words can proceed from nothing but confusedness in the thoughts which may give rise to them. Those thoughts which are "in the mind" when the actor moves in private life; but when the happiness of millions of men is at stake, they are of importance not easily to be derided.

We altogether deny that confusedness in words and in thoughts is a matter of trifling importance in the affairs of private life. In the affairs of our chief complaint against the abuses of "King's English" is that they encourage such confusion throughout the common schools. But certainly it surprising that the most confused and laborious specimens of our language should be taken upon the happiness of millions of men dependent on the pronouncements uttered by the king in his official capacity.

"I will it comes to 'King's English,' most people can say what they want to say intelligibly. The

The forecast as to a new year for members of the Chamber changed, though the date changed from May 5 to May 12. Puzé defalcations will arise at the election.

The new difficulty has arisen the law for secrecy of the vote is expected to be passed in 1901 and put into effect at the same time. In order to have an efficacy against two envelopes, of which it will have to be prepared with days at an estimated cost of 100 francs.

The president of the Senate, Steiner, declares that he will supply 35,000,000 envelopes in five days.

A deputa-tion of twenty well-known members of the Deputies has made a round trip on Paris newspapers to expound a programme to the President of the Republic. The programme will be purely political. General politics will be ignored in these elections. The candidates, asked the question, threatened to boycott the parliament.

Mme. Curie's love of research is inheritance. The passion for science came to her when she was a tiny child. Her nursery was a laboratory and instead of dolls she played with test tubes, retorts and crucibles. While her father, M. Sklodowski, professor of physics at a college in Cracovia, was working at experiments, she, as she grew older she became used to, she stays there for hours and she still statue till Mme. Curie forgets her presence. All however, the little girl's eyes are following every move her mother's and after work she has a perfect battery of which must be answered planned. Eve is quite different.

She learned the various phases of the laboratory work by her own instrumentality, and of the value of their meaning and use. She constituted herself "wash-stand," always cleaning the apparatus after experiments were over. She would don a apron and busily herself rinsing and scouring flasks, beakers, mortars, bottles, and pipettes, and then wash her hands and attend them reverently.

Then the little household at Varsova broke up. The professor had no money to leave his two daughters and they had to seek refuge in the city.

The older sister went to Austria, where she became a famous doctor of medicine, and Mme. Curie made her way to Paris, and there she had to endure the most grinding poverty and the greatest hardships. It was lack of money for course which necessitated her going to the city, and she found a municipal working class technical school, and it was in the laboratory there that her wonderful capabilities attracted attention.

Her marriage was a very perfect one. Together they worked at science. Together they cared for their two little girls. Together they received the Nobel science reward, and Paris has never forgotten how M. Curie refused the Cross of the Legion of Honor, but the decoration was awarded to his wife.

She was a petts saint to amuse and instruct her children, and with her Mme. Curie is very kind and sweet, and sometimes is even on long summer afternoons playing the piano out of doors cupping hands to the guests' cup-

Curie shares with many that faculty of abstract thought is so valuable to those of scientific work. It was quality, which is little known to his to his untimely death. He never notice the huge ed crashed him as he crossed the street, and he was his daughter-in-law about her and had one story that he as an example of her utter indifference to the world to any investigations when she was upon a difficult piece of research. He said that once when he was in the laboratory, he men a servant ran into the room screaming loudly, "madame, I have swallowed a piece of radium!"

Curie soothingly; "here you may have."

The old maid, who was the only one of the family, Curie would smile at it, never contradicted it. She never remembered what she

Never Separated.

This ideal couple were never separated in thought or idea, nor were they ever apart from one another for a single day. They were friends and comrades as well as man and wife, and in France they will go down to posterity not only as two of the greatest scientists, but as representatives of the ideal marriage.

Mme. Curie is now in her forty-fifth year. She is a fairly tall, slender woman with a pale face. Her features are regular, clear cut and of the Polish type. Her lips are thin and slightly harsh looking, suggesting past privations and suffering. Her eyes are the only part of her face which seem alive and vital. They are blue, and flame with enthusiasm and intelligence and a wide, unselfish, and far-reaching sympathy.

Parla, March 26.—The house of France has submitted the Minister of Public Instruction to a resolution regarding the use of balloons in aeroplanes. It is decided that no aeroplanes shall circulate at less than 1000 feet. They shall not fly over cities, nor shall they be used for carrying explosives, except on special exception of small short carrying balloons.

The limit is fixed with dirigible or aeroplane free balloons in order

Dirigibles Must Fly 1500 Feet from the Earth and Cannot Carry Explosives --- Trouble over the Ballots

Paris, March 25.—The Aero Club of France has submitted a scheme to the Minister of Public Works for the regulation of aerial traffic. The rule provides that no aeroplane or dirigible shall circulate at less than 1,500 feet. They shall not fly over towns without a permit, and are especially prohibited from carrying explosives, with the exception of small shot and sporting cartridges.

A limit is fixed within which dirigible or aeroplane can approach free balloons in order to avoid t

The forecast as to a new election for members of the Chamber remains unchanged, with the date may be

changed, from May 5 to May 22. The new date was chosen to allow the voters more time to make up their minds. The new date was also chosen to allow the voters more time to make up their minds. The new date was also chosen to allow the voters more time to make up their minds.

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on as the cause of the present
calamities, or any part of
" he was writing in June, 1822; "
it is a proof of a deficiency in
sort of talent which appears to me
necessary in men entrusted with
such affairs. He who writes badly
acts badly. Confusedness in words
proceed from nothing but con-
fusion in the thoughts which gave

to. These things make people
importance when the actors
in life; but when the
business of millions of men is at
stake, they are of importance not
only to the actors, but to the
audience. I altogether deny that confused
thoughts in words and in thoughts is a
mark of trifling. The actors in
the drama of private life. In
fact, our chief complaint against the
actors of "King's English" is that
they encourage the confusion of
thoughts in the country down to
the poorest board schools. But cer-
tainly it is surprising that the
actors of "King's English" should
be so ignorant of the specimens of
language should be found in those
announcements upon which the hap-
piness of millions of people de-
pends. The announcements uttered by
"King" in his official capacity or issued
in his name. Till it comes to "King's
English" we may say what we
want to say intelligently. The
language which ought to be the model

our prayers to the
r them directly unto Ge
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And as to those par
ch Mr. Balfour appears
ained. it, even

of discussion fully to visible meanings of such serious difficulties due to reversals of the course of opinion. Measures, in the opinion, should provide to "meaning in grammar" Communism, but "the Lord's," "should be and empowered," and must drop the surprise-winning street butler, we should see what Corbett can do. The additional advantage in the is a kind of acceptance, and the chief cause of rigidity and bad grammar. If he can, he says, but nine men, and practical tangent. That is just the woman's committee can no more than it is correct. The cooks spoil the menu, and in the of counsellors there may, but there is never style.